



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli 410 339-5065
Mike Miller 410 845-4201

ECI Volunteer Activity Coordinators Honored By *Alternative Directions* in Baltimore

TOWSON, MD (June 13, 2007)---The Volunteer Activity Coordinators at Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) were honored for their tireless service by *Alternative Directions* at the organization's 25th anniversary gala in Baltimore on June 12. The nonprofit focuses on providing guidance to people whose lives have been beset by incarceration or poverty, including legal and transitional services for inmates and ex-offenders.

Virginia Warren, a five-year ECI veteran, and Jane Rollins, who's been hard at work for seven years, are responsible for coordinating 333 volunteers, whose invaluable work helps keep dozens of important prison programs afloat. Among those programs are everything from AA and NA to Youth Diversion and Career Tours; parenting skills and other important inmate life skill training; and all inmate service and leisure activities. RJ's Angel project, the Cancer Society-benefitting Relay for Life, and Inmate Art Exhibit programs also fall under the volunteers' auspices. Various holiday, Black History Month, and religious activities are also coordinated by the two women's dedicated volunteers.

"The work these dedicated women do is absolutely crucial to the institution," says ECI Warden Kathleen Green. "Their efforts help inmates learn life skills and responsibility in prison, so that when they get out, they can become productive members of society."

Volunteer Activity Coordinators are present in most Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services facilities, and their work is an important part of the DPSCS re-entry effort.

###

www.dpscs.state.md.us